

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C09J 4/00, G11B 7/24		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/50368 (43) International Publication Date: 7 October 1999 (07.10.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/NL99/00168		(81) Designated States: CN, JP, KR, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).	
(22) International Filing Date: 24 March 1999 (24.03.99)			
(30) Priority Data: 09/048,980 27 March 1998 (27.03.98) US 09/048,981 27 March 1998 (27.03.98) US		Published <i>With international search report.</i>	
(71) Applicant: DSM N.V. [NL/NL]; Het Overloon 1, NL-6411 TE Heerlen (NL).			
(72) Inventors: KRONGAUZ, Vadim, Valerie; 1031 Knollwood Road, Bartlett, IL 60103 (US). HA, Chau, Thi, Minh; 200 N Arlington Heights Road #607, Arlington Heights, IL 60004 (US). JARIA, Rajni; Apartment 2B, 9124 Senate Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60016 (US). SULLIVAN, Michael, Gordon; 2120 Ridgefield Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008 (US).			
(74) Agent: DEN HARTOG, Jeroen, Hendrikus, Joseph; Octrooibureau DSM, P.O. Box 9, NL-6160 MA Geleen (NL).			

(54) Title: RADIATION CURABLE ADHESIVE FOR DIGITAL VERSATILE DISC

(57) Abstract

A UV-curable acrylate base adhesive composition for digital versatile discs and other substrates, a method for bonding versatile digital disc layers together with a UV-curable adhesive, and a digital versatile disc bonded by a UV-curable or a radiation curable adhesive. The adhesive comprises acrylate functional components, non-acrylate reactive diluents (e.g. having acrylamide, or N-vinyl functionality) and thiol compounds.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

RADIATION CURABLE ADHESIVE FOR DIGITAL VERSATILE DISC

5

1. Field of invention

This invention relates to a radiation-curable adhesive formulation useful for bonding together surfaces of digital versatile discs.

2. Description of related art

The compact disc, or CD as it is commonly known, revolutionized the recording and computer industries, making the storage of enormous amounts of data, such as music, possible in an inexpensive, readily available medium. The technology behind the compact disc has been improved and expanded to meet the increasing storage needs of the computer and entertainment industries, culminating in the creation of digital versatile discs, or DVDs. While compact discs and digital versatile discs store information in the same general manner, the DVD design exploits CD technology to create a superior product.

Structurally, digital versatile and compact discs are very similar to one another. The information bearing surfaces of both discs are marked with indentations, or pits, arranged in a continuous spiral pattern. As the drive laser moves across the pits, the laser beam is reflected back to the driver, which

receives the light signal and converts it into an appropriate format, for example, audio, video, graphic or textual format. DVDs store more data than equivalent CDs because, inter alia, the information-carrying pits 5 are smaller and are intimately spaced in tight tracks, as opposed to the wide tracks of CDs. DVD players utilize lasers which emit red light at 650nm and 635 nm, which are shorter wavelengths than the infrared light used in conventional CD players. These shorter 10 wavelengths enable DVD players to accurately read the smaller, more densely packed pits of the digital versatile discs.

The compact and digital versatile discs, composed of a core member around which the information 15 bearing surface is symmetrically arranged, are the same diameter (120mm), and the same thickness (1.2mm). However, instead of a single layer characteristic of traditional compact discs, digital versatile discs are made of two 0.6 mm layers of polycarbonate. This 20 reduces the amount of distance between the surface of the discs and the pits, such that the laser penetrates less plastic in the DVDs than in CDs when accessing information. Consequently, the thinner DVD substrate enhances the read accuracy of the laser. The two bonded 25 sides of the DVDs serve to strengthen the discs, preventing warping. Thus, digital versatile discs have greater capacity and reduced responses to environmental factors than compact discs.

Digital versatile discs may be created by 30 variations on a few basic processes, as disclosed, for

example, by U.S. Patent No. 4,310,919 and U.S. Patent No. 4,423,137. For example, during production of digital versatile discs, a master glass disc with the desired information is created, using a laser beam to 5 record data from the center of the master glass disc to the outer edge of the master glass disc in a spiral pattern. After recording, the master glass disc is developed by spinning a sodium hydroxide solution over the glass surface, revealing the pits created by the 10 laser. The developed master glass disc is then metallized with a coating of silver, followed by a coating of nickel. The nickel layer is then separated from the silver-coated master glass disc, forming a nickel reverse image of the data, known as the father 15 copy. One or more nickel copies of this father may be generated, which can be used as a stamper in an injection molding machine to mass produce discs. Molten polycarbonate is then shot into molds containing the 20 stamper, creating polycarbonate discs carrying the desired information. The discs are then removed from the molds with the lacquer layer adhered thereto, and a reflective metal, usually aluminum, is evaporated or 25 sputtered on top of the polycarbonate first layer containing the information. A protective coating of lacquer is then applied over the reflective layer and dried or cured, forming a single sided disc. The stamped side of the single-sided DVD is backed by a dummy layer, onto which graphics may be applied.

The basic DVD configuration is usually 30 modified to further enhance the capacity of the discs.

The capacity of a single sided disc may be almost doubled by applying a semi-reflective data layer zero, comprising, for example, gold, over the reflective aluminum layer one. The gold layer may be read by the 5 driver laser on a low power setting, while the aluminum layer may be accessed by increasing the power of the laser. This results in a double layer of information on a single side of a disc, imparting the DVD with currently about 8.5 GB of capacity.

10 Two of these single sided, dual layer discs may be bonded together back to back with a thick layer of adhesive, creating double sided, double layer digital versatile discs with currently about 17GB of storage space. The first and second disc layers are 15 bonded such that they are parallel to and equidistant from the core member of the disc. The adhesive employed must provide high shear strength, while keeping the information layers uniformly equidistant from each other.

20 Three technologies are currently employed for DVD bonding, namely contact adhesives, cationic or PSA UV bonding, and free radical UV bonding. The formulations must provide adhesion between the aluminum and polycarbonate layers, the gold and polycarbonate 25 layers, and the lacquer and the polycarbonate layers, and various combinations thereof. Furthermore, the adhesive coatings must have a high cure speed and must wet the substrate. Following cure, these materials must have high dimensional stability and durability.

30 However, strong, long-lasting adhesion

between DVD component layers, without compromising the other desirable properties, such as dimensional stability of the disc, is not achievable with the existing systems.

5 Contact adhesives are applied to discs in a hot melt process, during which temperatures are kept between 120°C and 160°C. The adhesive is spread on the discs as a thin layer by roll coating both inner bonding surfaces. The halves are then pressed together
10 and the adhesive is allowed to set. Flat discs may be produced at high yield rates via this method, but these discs tend to warp when stored above 70°C or in humid environments.

15 During cationic UV bonding, the adhesive is screened onto both the discs, UV irradiated, and then pressed together. The bond strengthens with time due to aging, such that after approximately 24 hrs, the disc halves are permanently attached to each other. The discs produced by this method are flatter than with
20 other processes, but cationic UV bonding necessitates an additional lacquer coating step. Additionally, the discs must stay in a curing station for a period to ensure complete bonding prior to stacking, requiring an extra stacker, which increases equipment costs.

25 During free radical UV bonding, acrylate lacquer is placed on the leading edge of a disc, after which a second disc is placed on top, and the pair is spun. The weight of the second disc promotes the movement of the lacquer toward the inner edge of the
30 metal layer, while the spinning causes the lacquer to

move to the outer edge. The adhesive is cured via UV irradiation after the spin coating process is completed. Radical UV bonding is prone to bubble formation between the bonded layers. In the dual layer 5 construction, bubbles can impair the ability of the drive laser to read the information-bearing pits. Variations in the aluminum layer prior to bonding can cause uneven curing, which prevents the formation of flat discs. Furthermore, acrylates shrink upon cure, 10 often to substantial degrees, thereby preventing the formation of flat discs. This shrinkage may also reduce the environmental stability of bonded discs.

Summary of the invention

15 The object of the current invention is a adhesive that strongly binds sputter-coated metallized or siliconized, polycarbonate substrates, and UV-cured lacquer surfaces, is stable following exposure to elevated temperature and humidity, possesses excellent 20 mechanical properties, has suitable viscosity, acceptable shrinkage and has a low degree of volatility post-cure. The result is an adhesive that imparts impact resistance and superior shear strength to bonded digital versatile discs or to other substrates.

25 The object of the invention is achieved by a UV or radiation-curable composition for use as an adhesive material comprising the combination of the following pre-mixture ingredients:

30 (A) about 5 wt.% to about 80 wt.% of at least one UV or radiation-curable acrylate oligomer;

- (B) about 1 wt.% to about 20 wt.% of at least one non-acrylate functional reactive diluent;
- (C) about 10 wt.% to about 80 wt.% of at least one acrylate functional reactive diluent;
- 5 (D) about 0.5 wt.% to about 10 wt.% of at least one radical forming sulphur compound, and
- (E) optionally about 0.1 wt.% to about 15 wt.% of one or more photoinitiators,

wherein the "pre-mixture ingredients" correspond to the
10 identity of radiation-curable composition components
prior to mixture with other ingredients.

The present invention provides for the production of an improved adhesive for bonding digital versatile discs, methods for bonding disc components
15 together, and discs with improved impact resistance due to the enhanced bonding properties of the adhesive compound.

The radical forming sulphur compound generally will be a thiol compound or a polysulphide
20 compound. Hereinafter, mostly it is referred to thiol compound, but this is just as an example.

Acrylate oligomers are well known in field of adhesives. According to the invention, it is supposed, that co-polymerization of thiol and non-
25 acrylate functional compounds (sometimes mentioned as "ene") with urethane acrylates creates a urethane-acrylate-thiol-ene hybrid adhesive coating with superior properties to urethane acrylate coatings lacking the thiol-ene system. The non-acrylate functional compound can e.g. be an acrylamide or an N-

vinyl group comprising compound. Because standard adhesive materials do not provide strong, long lasting bonding between, for example, aluminum and polycarbonate substrates, especially under adverse 5 environmental conditions, particularly elevated temperatures and humidity levels, the creation of hybrid acrylate-thiol-ene adhesive formulations is a marked improvement over the current methodology.

Although not certain, the thiol-ene systems 10 appear to allow copolymerization of non-acrylate functional moieties with acrylate moieties. In the absence of thiols, copolymerization of, for example, N-vinyl compounds is slow. Thiol compounds act as chain transfer agents, which may reduce cure speed. In 15 contrast, thiol-ene systems in acrylate compounds enhance cure speed and reduce shrinkage of cured adhesives during cure of adhesive films.

Brief description of the figures

20 Figure 1 relates adhesive thickness, plotted on the ordinate, with spin speeds, plotted on the abscissa.

Figure 2 relates the degree of cure (% unreacted acrylate unsaturation), measured by Fourier 25 Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FITR), with the amount of UV energy to which the adhesive is exposed.

Figure 3 shows the thermal stability of the cured adhesive composition, measured by Thermal Gravimetric Analysis (TGA).

Detailed description of the invention

Construction of a DVD requires bonding two 0.6 mm substrates together, using an optical adhesive. One or both substrates are vacuum coated with a thin 5 layer of aluminum, gold, silicon, silicon carbide or silicon nitride. DVD bonding optical adhesive needs to adhere well to these surfaces and to polycarbonate, from which the discs are made. Substrate layers bonded together in various combinations according to the 10 invention include, but are not limited to, plastics, metallics and ceramics. The optical adhesive must not corrode the surfaces in hot and/or humid environments. Additional requirements for DVD bonding adhesive include complete edge cure, high cure rate in air and 15 optical clarity for DVD-9, DVD-18 or other sizes.

Radiation curable adhesive formulations based on hybrid acrylate-thiol-ene copolymerization are unexpectedly advantageous DVD adhesives. The adhesives bond strongly to, for example, aluminized surfaces of 20 the polycarbonate substrates of a DVD, cure well in air and have good edge cure characteristics. Such formulations also do not corrode the aluminum surface.

The types and amounts of acrylate oligomer, non-acrylate functional reactive diluent, acrylate 25 functional reactive diluents, thiol compounds and additives may be adjusted according to the ultimate use of the product. The composition may be tailored to maximize the adhesiveness, reduce the viscosity, shorten cure speed, and the like of the cured material. 30 For example, acrylate functional reactive diluent and

optionally silane compounds, may be added at varying effective concentrations to achieve improved viscosity and adhesion, respectively. By altering the ratios of components, other desirable properties, including high 5 optical transparency, good hardness, chemical resistance, and abrasion resistance, may be promoted.

The exact combinations selected for the use in radiation-curable adhesive coating compositions may vary, depending upon the other components of the 10 composition and the light source used to cure the composition. Components should be excluded from the formulation which, prior to cure, cause insoluble salts to form, which may impair the optical properties of the bonded disc.

15 The radiation-curable compositions can be cured by conventional means. For instance, the radiation source can be a conventional light source, such as, for example, UV lamps available from Fusion Systems Corp. In addition, low-, medium- and high- 20 pressure mercury lamps, superactinic fluorescent tubes or pulse lamps are suitable. Radiation-cure is preferably by actinic radiation and more preferably by UV radiation. When using the preferred UV cure of the adhesive compositions, proper control of light 25 intensity is important to help control shrinkage of the polymerized material.

The radiation-curable oligomer (A) can be any radiation-curable oligomer used in radiation-curable, adhesive coating compositions. An example of a 30 suitable radiation-curable oligomer includes an

urethane oligomer having a molecular weight of at least about 500 and containing at least one ethylenically unsaturated group that can be polymerized through actinic radiation. For example, if the diluent is 5 present in the coating composition, the ethylenically unsaturated group can be the reactive terminus of the oligomer to which the reactive diluent is bound when the composition is cured. Preferably, the oligomer has two terminal radiation-curable functional groups, one 10 at each end of the oligomer.

Representative oligomers are disclosed in, for example, 4,932,750.

The radiation-curable oligomer is generally present in an amount of about 5% or more, preferably in 15 an amount of about 10% or more, and more preferably, about 15 wt.% or more. The acrylate oligomer generally is present in an amount of about 80% or less, preferably about 75 wt.% or less, and more preferably about 60 wt.% or less.

20 Examples of suitable radiation-curable functional groups which can be present on the oligomer include ethylenically unsaturated groups like acrylate or methacrylate, or mixtures thereof.

Preferably, the radiation-curable group in 25 the oligomer is an acrylate group.

The radiation-curable oligomer includes an oligomer backbone, at least two radiation-curable groups, and linking groups which link the radiation-curable groups to the oligomer backbone. The oligomer 30 preferably, but not necessarily, has a linear

structure, and can include block or random copolymeric structures. Oligomers having urethane linkages and acrylate radiation-curable groups are preferred.

The oligomer backbone can be, for example, 5 based on a polyether, polyolefin, polyester, polycarbonate, acrylic, hydrocarbon, polyolefin, or copolymers thereof. Preferably, the oligomer backbone comprises urethane units.

The radiation-curable oligomer can be an 10 acrylic oligomer comprising at least one radiation-curable (meth)acrylate group, and preferably, at least one acrylate group. These are known in the art as acrylated acrylics.

Oligomer synthetic routes for acrylated 15 acrylics can, for example, involve an esterification of a hydroxyl-functional acrylic oligomer with (meth)acrylic acid, or the reaction of an epoxy-functional acrylic oligomer with (meth)acrylic acid. These acrylated acrylics can include urethane linkages. 20 Preferred acrylated acrylic oligomers include species of at least Mn 5,000. Preferred acrylated urethane acrylics are described in EP-A-858470.

Acrylated acrylics can be prepared by known 25 synthetic methods including, for example, partial esterification of acrylic polymers having pendant carboxylic acid group with hydroxyethyl acrylate or glycidyl methacrylate, or in the alternative, acrylation of glycidyl methacrylate terpolymer with acrylic acid.

30 The acrylic oligomer typically will have a

copolymers backbone. The Tg of the oligomer can be lowered by decreasing the content of methyl methacrylate.

(Meth)acrylic acid and ester polymers are 5 disclosed in, for example, Encyclopedia of Polymer Science & Engineering, Vol. 1, 1985, pgs. 211-305.

The oligomer backbone can comprise one or more oligomeric blocks coupled with each other via, for example, urethane linkages. For example, one or more 10 types of polyol prepolymers can be linked by methods known in the art.

If the oligomer backbone is a polyether, the resulting adhesives can have a low glass transition temperature and good mechanical properties. If the 15 oligomer backbone is a polyolefin, the resulting adhesives can have a further improved water resistance. Polycarbonate-based oligomers can provide for good stability. Polyether backbones are preferred.

Oligomers with repeating urethane units can 20 be, for example, prepared by reaction of (i) an oligomer polyol, (ii) a di- or poly-isocyanate and (iii) a hydroxy functional ethylenically unsaturated monomer such as, for example hydroxyalkyl(meth)-acrylate.

If an oligomer backbone polyol is used, 25 preferably it has on average at least about 2 hydroxyl groups. The oligomer backbone polyol may have, on average, more than 2 hydroxyl groups. Examples of such an oligomer diol include polyether diols, polyolefin 30 diols, polyester diols, polycarbonate diols, and

mixtures thereof. Polyether and polycarbonate diols, or combinations thereof, are preferred.

If a polyether diol is used, preferably the polyether is a substantially non-crystalline polyether.

5 Preferably, the polyether comprises repeating units of one or more of the following monomer units:

-O-CH₂-CH₂-

-O-CH₂-CH(CH₃)-

-O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-

10 -O-CH(CH₃)-CH₂-CH₂-

-O-CH₂-CH(CH₃)-CH₂-

-O-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-

-O-CH₂-CH(CH₃)-CH₂-CH₂-

-O-CH(CH₃)-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-.

15 An example of a polyether polyol that can be used is the polymerization product of 20 percent by weight of 3-methyltetrahydrofuran and 80 percent by weight of tetrahydrofuran, both of which have undergone a ring opening polymerization. This polyether copolymer 20 contains both branched and non-branched oxyalkylene repeating units and is marketed as PTGL 1000TM (Hodogaya Chemical Company of Japan). Another example of a polyether in this series which can be used is PTGL 2000TM (Hodogaya Chemical Company). Another example of a 25 polyether which can be used is polyarylicdiol, like ethoxylated or propoxylated bisphenol-A or bisphenol-F.

Examples of polycarbonate diols are those conventionally produced by the alcoholysis of diethylene carbonate with a diol. The diol can be, for

example, an alkylene diol having about 2 to about 12 carbon atoms, such as, 1,4-butane diol, 1,6-hexane diol, 1,12-dodecane diol, and the like. Mixtures of these diols can also be utilized. The polycarbonate 5 diol can contain ether linkages in the backbone in addition to carbonate groups. Thus, for example, polycarbonate copolymers of alkylene oxide monomers and the previously described alkylene diols can be used. Admixtures of the polycarbonate diols and polycarbonate 10 copolymers can also be utilized.

Polycarbonate diols include, for example, DURACARB 122TM (PPG Industries) and PERMANOL KM10-1733TM (Permuthane, Inc., Ma.). DURACARB 122TM is produced by the alcoholysis of diethylcarbonate with hexane diol.

15 Suitable polyolefin polyols preferably comprise hydrogenated polybutadiene, and in particular, 1,2- and 1,4 copolymerized butadiene.

Any organic polyisocyanate (ii), alone or 20 in admixture, can be used as the polyisocyanate. The polyisocyanate compounds which are employed in forming the urethane acrylate oligomers can be any organic isocyanate compound having at least two free isocyanate groups. Included are aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, and aromatic polyisocyanates. Polyisocyanates such as alkyl 25 and alkylene polyisocyanates, cycloalkyl and cycloalkylene polyisocyanates, aryl and arylene polyisocyanates, and combinations such as alkylene, cycloalkylene and alkylene arylene polyisocyanates, can be used. With the reaction, a product is obtained which 30 is end-capped with the reaction product from the

isocyanate/ethylenically unsaturated monomer reaction on at least one end of the molecule. "End-capped" means that a functional group caps one of the two ends of the oligomer diol.

5 The isocyanate/hydroxy functional monomer reaction product attaches to the oligomer backbone (i) diol via a urethane linkage. The urethane reactions can take place in the presence of a catalyst. Catalysts for the urethane reaction include, for example, dibutyl-tin 10 dilaurate, diazabicyclooctane crystals and the like.

Preferably the polyisocyanate (ii) is a diisocyanate. Examples of diisocyanates (ii) include isophorone diisocyanate (IPDI), tetramethylxylene diisocyanate (TMXDI), toluene diisocyanate (TDI), 15 diphenylmethylene diisocyanate, hexamethylene diisocyanate, cyclohexylene diisocyanate, methylene dicyclohexane diisocyanate, 2,2,4-trimethyl hexamethylene diisocyanate, m-phenylene diisocyanate, 4-chloro-1,3-phenylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-biphenylene 20 diisocyanate, 1,5-naphthylene diisocyanate, 1,4-tetramethylene diisocyanate, 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,10-decamethylene diisocyanate, 1,4-cyclohexylene diisocyanate, and polyalkyloxide and polyester glycol diisocyanates such as 25 polytetramethylene ether glycol terminated with TDI and polyethylene adipate terminated with TDI, respectively. Preferably, the diisocyanates are non-yellowing diisocyanates such as isophorone diisocyanate.

Generally the compound providing a reactive 30 terminus (iii) is an olefinically unsaturated compound

employed for the preparation of the present urethane acrylate oligomers, and may be monomeric or polymeric and is characterized by the presence of a moiety which can react with isocyanate such as an active hydrogen 5 group. Preferably, the active hydrogen group is hydroxy. Illustrative of unsaturated polymerizable monomeric organic compounds having an isocyanate reactive active hydrogen group are 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl 10 acrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, diethylene glycol monoacrylate, diethylene glycol monomethacrylate, glycerine dimethacrylate, dimethylol propane dimethacrylate, reaction products of polyester glycols of acrylic or methacrylic acid and the like.

15 The polyol used to prepare the urethane oligomer generally has a molecular weight of about 200 g/mol to about 5,000 g/mol, and preferably, about 500 g/mol to about 4,000 g/mol, and more preferably, about 1,000 g/mol to about 3,000 g/mol. The urethane oligomer 20 with radiation curable groups generally has a number average molecular weight of about 1,000 to about 10,000, and preferably about 1,500 to about 5,000. Suitable syntheses of urethane oligomers are disclosed in, for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,336,563 and 25 5,409,740. Mixtures of oligomers can be used. A preferred urethane acrylate oligomer is CN 966-J75TM obtained from Sartomer, Inc. (Pennsylvania), which is an aliphatic polyurethane acrylate.

30 The composition according to the invention comprises at least two reactive diluents. The reactive

diluents can be used to adjust the viscosity of the adhesive composition. Thus, the reactive diluents can each be a low viscosity monomer containing at least one functional group capable of polymerization when exposed 5 to actinic radiation. At least one non-acrylate functional (or -ene) reactive diluents and one acrylate functional reactive diluent is used.

The reactive diluents are preferably added in such an amount that the viscosity of the coating 10 composition is in the range of about 100 to about 1,000 mPas. Suitable amounts of the reactive diluents have been found to be about 5 wt% to about 80 wt%, and more preferably about 10 % to about 75% by weight.

The reactive diluents preferably have a 15 molecular weight of not more than about 550 or a viscosity at room temperature of less than about 500 mPas (measured as 100% diluent).

The functional group present on the reactive diluents may be of the same nature as that 20 used in the radiation-curable oligomer. Preferably, the radiation-curable functional group present in the reactive diluent is capable of copolymerizing with the radiation-curable functional group present on the radiation-curable oligomer.

25 The non-acrylate functional reactive diluent (B) comprises a group capable of radical polymerisation, not being an acrylate or methacrylate group. Suitable non-acrylate functional groups include acrylamide, methacrylamide, N-vinyl, vinylether, 30 vinylester and the like.

In a first embodiment of this invention, the non-acrylate functional reactive diluent (B) comprises a vinyl group.

Such vinyl reactive diluent preferably has 5 a vinylether or N-vinyl functional group. More preferably, N-vinyl is used. Suitable examples of vinyl monomers are laurylvinyl ether, 2-ethylhexylvinyl ether, hexanedioldivinylether, N-vinyl formamide and derivatives thereof, N-vinyl carbazole, N-vinylcaprolactam, N-vinylpyrrolidone and the like. 10

As vinyl reactive diluent, N-vinylpyrrolidone or N-vinyl caprolactam is preferred.

In a second embodiment of this invention, the non-acrylate functional reactive diluent (B) 15 comprises an acrylamide group such as an alkyl acrylamide, an alkylmethacrylamide, or an aryl acrylamide. Preferably, the photopolymerizable amide comprises an alkyl acrylamide, such as N,N-dimethyl acrylamide, N-isopropyl acrylamide, N,N-diethyl acrylamide, N,N-dimethylamino propylacrylamide, and 20 morpholinoacrylamide.

The non-acrylate functional reactive diluent (B) preferably is present in an amount of about 3 wt.% or more, and more in particular in about 5 wt.% 25 or more.

Suitable amounts of the reactive acrylate functional diluent system (C) have been found to be about 10 wt% to about 80 wt%, and preferably, about 10 wt.% to about 70 wt.%, and more preferably, about 30 25 wt.% to about 60 wt.%. If more than one reactive

diluent is present, the amounts of reactive diluent are added together to determine the amount of the diluent system.

Preferably, the reactive diluent system
5 comprises monomers having an acrylate functionality and an C₄-C₂₀ alkyl or polyether moiety. Examples of such reactive diluents are hexyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, isobornyl acrylate, decyl acrylate, lauryl acrylate, stearyl acrylate, ethoxyethoxy-ethyl acrylate,
10 isodecyl acrylate, and isoctyl acrylate.

Another preferred type of reactive diluent is a compound including an aromatic group. Examples of diluents having an aromatic group include: ethyleneglycolphenyletheracrylate,
15 polyethyleneglycolphenyletheracrylate, polypropyleneglycolphenyletheracrylate, and alkyl-substituted phenyl derivatives of the above monomers, such as polyethyleneglycolnonylphenyletheracrylate.

A preferred acrylate monomer diluent, is
20 isobornyl acrylate, or isoctylacrylate.

Furthermore, the reactive diluents can contain two groups capable of polymerization using actinic radiation. A diluent having three or more of such reactive groups can be present as well. Examples
25 of such monomers include:

C₂-C₁₈ hydrocarbon dioldiacrylates,
C₄-C₁₈ hydrocarbon divinylethers,
C₃-C₁₈ hydrocarbon trioltriacrylates, the polyether analogues thereof, and the like, such as 1,6-
30 hexanedioldiacrylate, trimethylolpropanetriacrylate,

triethyleneglycoldiacrylate, pentaeritritoltriacrylate, and tripropyleneglycol diacrylate, alkoxylated bisphenol A diacrylate, or dimethacrylate, like ethoxylated or propoxylated bisphenol-A-dimethacrylate.

5 Properties of reactive diluents and UV-cured urethane acrylates are described in *J. App. Polym. Sci.*, 37:1627-1636 (1995).

The composition further comprises a radical forming sulphur compound (D). With radical forming is 10 ment, that in radical polymerization, the sulphur compounds is coreacted for at least 50%. Radical forming sulphur compounds are for example thiol or polysulphide comprising compounds. It is preferred to use alkanethiol, alkylesterthiol or dialkylpolysulphide 15 compounds. Preferably, the reactive diluent forms thioether linkages during radiation-cure. Such thioether linkages can be formed by thiol-ene reactions. Aliphatic thiol compounds, such as C₅-C₃₀, preferably C₅-C₂₀ alkanethiol compounds, are suitable 20 reactants. Examples of alkanethiols include 1-pentanethiol, 1-hexanethiol, 1-heptanethiol, 1-octanethiol, 1-decanethiol, 1-dodecane-thiol, and the like. Compounds comprising a plurality of mercapto 25 groups can be used, including di- and tri-mercapto compounds. A suitable alkylesterthiol is e.g. methylthioglycolate or isoctyl-3-mercaptopropionate. Suitable polysulphides include di- and tetrasulphides such as di-octyltetrasulphide.

Preferred examples of compounds (D) are 30 compounds that also comprise a trialkoxy silane group,

such as for example γ -mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane and γ -mercaptopropyltriethoxysilane and trimethoxysilylpropyl tetrasulphide. Such thiol-ene systems, when copolymerized with acrylates, provide for 5 compositions with superior adhesive qualities.

The composition may optionally further comprise at least one photoinitiator. The photoinitiator is required for fast UV cure. Conventional photoinitiators can be used. Examples 10 include benzophenones, acetophenone derivatives, such as alpha-hydroxyalkylphenylketones, benzoin alkyl ethers and benzil ketals, monoacylphosphine oxides, and bisacylphosphine oxides. A preferred photoinitiator is 2 hydroxy-2-methyl-1-phenyl-propan-1-one (DAROCURE 15 1700TM, Ciba Geigy). Another preferred example is 2,2-dimethoxy-2-phenyl acetophenone (IRGACURE 651TM, Ciba Geigy). Other suitable photosensitizers include mercaptobenzothiazoles, mercaptobenzooxazoles and hexaryl bisimidazole. Often, mixtures of 20 photoinitiators provide a suitable balance of properties.

The photoinitiator should be present in sufficient quantity to provide fast cure speed, reasonable cost, good surface, through cure and lack of 25 yellowing upon aging. Typical amounts can be, for example, about 0.1 wt.% to about 15 wt.%.

Additional compounds are commonly used in radiation-curable adhesives, and can be used in effective amounts.

30 Several additives may be included in the

formulations. Minor amounts of UV absorbers, typically those of the benzotriazole, benzophenone or oxanilide type, or sterically hindered amine type (HALS) may be added as light stabilizers. Further customary additives 5 as used in the art include fillers, chain transfer agents, plasticizers, wetting agents, stabilizers, adhesion promoters or leveling agents. Mercaptosilanes, as described above, are preferred adhesion promoters. When thiol compounds other than mercaptosilanes are 10 used, it is preferred to use silane adhesion promoters. Such silane adhesion promoters are known in the art. Examples include isocyanatoalkyltrialkoxysilanes, methacrylylalkyltrialkoxysilanes, amino alkyltrialkoxysilanes and epoxyalkyltrialkoxy silanes. 15 The alkyl group generally is propyl, and as the alkoxy group, methoxy or ethoxy is preferred. Another suitable silane adhesion promoter is vinyltrimethoxysilane. Mercaptosilanes, such as mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane and mercaptopropyltriethoxysilane, are particularly 20 preferred. Thermal antioxidants may be used to improve thermal and oxidative stability. Other polymers and oligomers can be added to the compositions as needed.

Moisture content in the adhesive composition is preferably minimized.

25 Cure speed can be measured by dose-modulus curves as known in the art. Cure speed can be taken as the dose required to effect 95% of the maximum modulus. For an adhesive coating, UV cure speed is preferably about 1.0 J/cm², more preferably about 0.7 J/cm² or less 30 at 95% of maximum attainable modulus.

For an adhesive coating, density at 25°C is about 1.02 g/ml. Elongation (cured film elongation at break) is preferably at least 20% or more, and more preferably, about 50% or more and in particular about 5 100% or more. The weight loss of the cured adhesive at 100°C for 40 min should be \leq 5%, and shrinkage upon cure should be \leq 10%, with respect to the density of cured material. Bond strength is preferably rated about 4 to about 5. Shear strength is preferably about 10 lbs to 10 about 100 lbs. Cured adhesive bonds are preferably stable under exposure to about 85°C at about 95% relative humidity for at least 250 hrs, more preferably for at least 2,000 hrs.

The present invention provides a UV-curable 15 composition with good adherence to plastic, metallic, and ceramic substrates, a low viscosity and excellent optical and elongation properties. The composition may therefore be useful for bonding single-sided digital 20 versatile discs together or bonding the individual layers comprising a single-sided disc. Other substrates may also be bonded by the adhesive composition. Unexpectedly superior adhesiveness is achieved with 25 this composition, providing an excellent material to meet adhesion requirements for digital versatile disc manufacture.

The compounds forming the radiation curable adhesive composition were mixed together and coated on one surface of each of two polycarbonate substrates forming the DVD, which surfaces were already coated 30 with an aluminum, gold or other layer encoded with

audio, video or other information. The adhesive was coated on the substrates by spin coating or other method known in the art. The adhesive was then cured with ultraviolet radiation. Radiation-cure was effected 5 using a fusion lamp equipped with a "D" bulb from Fusion Curing Systems, Rockville, Maryland, in an air atmosphere. The "D" lamp emits radiation of about 200 to about 470 nanometers with the peak radiation being at about 380 nanometers. The substrates were 10 superimposed on each other with the adhesive bonding the substrate layers together, thereby forming a single DVD having one or preferably two layers of encoded audio or video information which may be read in a DVD player. Substrate layers which may be bonded by the 15 invention in various combinations comprise plastics, metallics and ceramics. The adhesive composition may be applied to the disc layers by spin coating, capillary gap dispensing or screen printing. Curing preferably is effected to obtain at least about 80% of the maximum 20 attainable modulus, more preferably at least about 90% of said modulus.

Cured compositions can be examined for crystalline inclusions by optical microscopic methods. Conventional methods can be used to examine for these 25 effects, although increasingly more stringent, high resolution analysis is required. Aging of cured films at, for example, 125°C, or at 95°C/95% relative humidity can be carried out to test for crystallization effects. Phase behavior can also be examined with use 30 of a Polaroid camera, in a reflected light using

differential interference contrast microscopy and a Leitz microscope. Magnifications of, for example, 200X or 500X can be used to determine crystallization and phase behavior effects.

5 The production of and useful characteristics for optical disc adhesives are discussed in, for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,861,637, 4,906,675 and 5,213,947.

10 Optical disc production is described in, for example, Network Formation by Chain Crosslinking Photopolymerization and its Applications in Electronics, by J.G. Kloosterboer in ADV. POLYM. SCI., 1988, 84, pp. 1-61.

15 The invention will be further explained by the non-limiting examples which follow.

Examples

Example 1

20 A solution containing a polycarbonate urethane diacrylate oligomer (Tg 14°C Desotech), N-vinylpyrrolidone (NVP), isobornylacrylate (IBOA), a thiol additive adhesion promoter, γ -mercaptoptrimethoxysilane and the photoinitiator
25 DAROCURE 1700™ (Ciba Geigy) was prepared utilizing the proportions listed in Table 1. The reagents were heated for 1 hr at 60°C, after which the components were mixed by shaking until homogeneous. The resulting material had a viscosity of 330 mPas, as measured by a Physica™
30 LC3 viscometer. This low viscosity permitted easy use

of the material during spin coating. The polymer was subsequently tested for adhesive properties on DVDs.

Table 1

Components	Example I wt.%
Polycarbonate urethane diacrylate oligomer	46.5
NVP	10.0
IBOA	36.0
γ -mercaptopropyl-trimethoxysilane	3.50
Darocure TM 1700	4.0
Viscosity (@25°C)	330 pas
Density (@25°C)	1.02 g/ml
Appearance	Clear liquid
Glass Transition Temp (Tg)	35.5°C
Weight loss (100°C/40")	2%
Shrinkage upon cure	5.5%

5

NVP is N-vinylpyrrolidone.

IBOA is isobornylacrylate.

DarocureTM 1700 is a photoinitiator.

10 Properties of Example 1 in DVD Binding

An aluminum disc was spin coated with a protective coating at 5,000 rpm for 5s, then cured at 1J/cm² using a Fusion D lamp. Thereafter, the protected aluminum disc was spin coated with an adhesive layer at 15 5,000 rpm for 10s. Very thin layers of the adhesive can be achieved (about 15 μ m thick) when a spin speed of

5,000 rpm is employed. A polycarbonate disc was placed on the adhesive-coated aluminum disc, and the two substrate discs were pressed together, avoiding the inclusion of any air bubbles. The adhesive between the 5 discs was cured at 1J/cm² using a Fusion D lamp (300W/inch). Impact resistance (bond strength) of the bonded discs when dropped onto concrete from a height of 75 cm was measured before and after the adhered discs were exposed to environmental stress (85°C at 95% 10 relative humidity (RH) for 2,000 hrs). Shear stress of overlapping strips of bonded DVD were measured before and after environmental stress exposure, using standard instrumentation (INSTRON model 4201). The results of these tests are presented in Table 2.

15

Table 2

Bonded Digital Versatile Discs	Values
Shear strength of bonded strip @ 25°C	60 lbs
Shear strength of bonded strip @ 25°C after environmental stress (72 hrs)	63 lbs
Bond Strength, @25°C/40% RH (2,000 hrs)	5
Bond Strength, @85°C/95% RH (2,000 hrs)	5

Examples 2 and 3

Formulations for Examples 2 and 3 were made 20 and tested according to the methodology for Example 1. The compositions and test results of Example 2 and Example 3 are listed in Table 3. The epoxylated bisphenol A polyurethane acrylate is characterized by Mn-1,000 and Tg 24°C.

Table 3

Components	Example 2 (Wt.%)	Example 3 (Wt.%)
Acrylated acrylate oligomer		74.5
Epoxylated Bisphenol A polyurethane acrylate oligomer	46.25	
N-vinylcaprolactam	8.5	8.5
Isobornyl acrylate	36.75	3.0
Ethoxyethoxyethylacrylate		16.0
γ -mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane	2.0	0.5
Darocure TM 1700		3.0
Darocure TM 1173	3.0	
Irgacure TM 651	3.0	
Irgacure TM 1035	0.5	
Viscosity (mPas @25°C)	700	1025
Appearance	Clear liquid	Clear liquid
Bond strength @ 25°C/40% RH (250 hrs)	5.0	5.0
Bond Strength @ 85°C/95% RH (250 hrs)	4.0	1.0

5 In Example 2, disc failure occurred at a shear strength of 25 lbs., measured @ 25°C, and 30 lbs., measured @ 25°C after environmental stress exposure (85°C/85% RH, 72 hrs).

Examples 4-7

10 The compounds as shown in table 4 and 5 forming the radiation curable adhesive composition are mixed together and coated on one surface of each of two

polycarbonate substrates forming the DVD, as in the previous examples.

Table 4

Components	Example 4 (Wt. %)
Acrylated acrylic oligomer (Mn 5,000)	42.25
N-dimethyl acrylamide	8.5
Isobornyl acrylate	38.75
γ -mercaptopropyl-trimethoxysilane	2.0
Photoinitiator (Darocure TM 1173)	3.0
Photoinitiator (Irgacure TM 651)	3.0
Photoinitiator (Irgacure TM 1035)	2.5
Bond strength (250 hrs @ 25°C/45% relative humidity)	5
Bond strength (250 hrs @ 85°C/85% relative humidity)	delaminated

5

Table 5

Components	Example 5 (Wt. %)	Example 6 (Wt. %)
Alkoxylated bisphenol A polyurethane acrylate (Tg -14°C)	48.0	
Alkoxylated bisphenol A polyurethane acrylate (Mn 1,000, Tg 24°C)		35.0
N-dimethyl acrylamide	7.5	7.5
Isobornyl acrylate	36.0	49.0
γ -mercaptopropyl-trimethoxysilane	2.0	2.0
Darocure TM 1173	3.0	3.0
Irgacure TM 651	3.0	3.0
Irgacure TM 1035	0.5	0.5

Components	Example 5 (Wt.%)	Example 6 (Wt.%)
Viscosity (@25°C)	530	130
Appearance	Clear liquid	Clear liquid
Bond strength (250 hrs @ 25°C/45% relative humidity)	5.0	5.0
Bond strength (250 hrs @ 85°C/85% relative humidity)	4.0	5.0

Table 6

Components	Example 7 (Wt.%)
Alkoxylated bisphenol A polyurethane acrylate (Mn 1,000, Tg 24°C)	46.5
N-dimethyl acrylamide	8.5
Isobornyl acrylate	36.0
γ-mercaptopropyl-trimethoxysilane	3.0
Darocure™ 1173	3.0
Irgacure™ 651	3.0
Viscosity (pas@25°C)	447
Coat time (sec)	3.0
Coat speed (rpm)	4,000
Bond strength (288 hrs @ 25°C/45% relative humidity)	5.0
Bond strength (288 hrs @ 80°C/95% relative humidity)	4.0

5

The inventive formulations, used as adhesives for bonded DVD discs, in particular, the urethane acrylate formulations, withstand an

environment of at least 80°C and 85% relative humidity, preferably at least 85°C and 95% relative humidity. Acrylated acrylics tend to delaminate under extreme temperature and high humidity conditions, and thus 5 urethane acrylate formulations are better suited for these circumstances.

Viscosity of the formulations is preferably in a range from about 100 mPas to about 1,000 mPas at 25°C. Bond strength and drop test results (after 6 days 10 curing) are satisfactory, as is visual inspection. Preferably, bond strength is from about 10 lbs to about 100 lbs. Coat speeds and coat time indicate the properties of the adhesive compositions during spin coating.

15 The adhesives of the invention are not tacky to touch after curing.

Figure 1 relates adhesive thickness, plotted on the ordinate, with spin speeds, plotted on 20 the abscissa. A desired adhesive thickness can be obtained by selecting the appropriate spin speed, spin time and acceleration.

Figure 2 relates the degree of cure (% unreacted acrylate unsaturation), measured by FTIR, 25 with the amount of UV energy to which the adhesive is exposed. The data show that the adhesive composition undergoes exceptionally high conversion of liquid to solid at a relatively low level of UV energy.

Figure 3 shows the thermal stability of the 30 cured adhesive composition, measured by TGA. The high

conversion of the composition during curing generates a thermally stable DVD bonding adhesive. The data also indicate that the composition undergoes extremely low weight loss (about 2%) at a test temperature of 100°C.

5

Test Methods

The test results were obtained using the following test methods.

10 Viscosity

The viscosity was measured using a PHYSICA MC10 Viscometer. The test samples were examined and if an excessive amount of bubbles was present, steps were taken to remove most of the bubbles. Not all bubbles 15 need to be removed at this stage, because the act of sample loading introduces some bubbles.

The instrument was set up for the conventional Z3 system, which was used. The samples were loaded into a disposable aluminum cup by using the 20 syringe to measure out 17 cc. Samples in the cup were examined for excessive amounts of bubbles, which if noted, were removed by a direct means such as centrifugation. Alternatively, enough time was allowed to elapse so as to let the bubbles escape from the bulk 25 of the liquid. Bubbles at the top surface of the liquid were acceptable.

The bob was gently lowered into the liquid in the measuring cup, and the cup and bob were installed in the instrument. The sample temperature was 30 allowed to equilibrate with the temperature of the

circulating liquid by waiting five minutes. Then, the rotational speed was set to a desired value which produced the desired shear rate. The desired value of the shear rate is easily determined by one of ordinary 5 skill in the art from an expected viscosity range of the sample.

The instrument panel read out a viscosity value, and if the viscosity value varied only slightly (less than 2% relative variation) for 15 seconds, the 10 measurement was complete. If the reading varied, the temperature may not have reached an equilibrium value, or the material may have changed due to shearing. In the latter case, further testing at different shear rates was be needed to define the sample's viscous 15 properties. The results reported are the average viscosity values of three test samples.

Bond Strength

The bond strength of bonded digital 20 versatile discs bonded with a cured adhesive was measured via a drop testing method. The cured, bonded discs were dropped a vertical distance of 3 feet to a concrete surface, such that the outer edges of the bonded discs impacted the concrete. The impact 25 resistance of cured sample adhesive compositions was qualitatively rated as noted hereinbelow.

Rating Scale of 1-5

1 Worst; delamination of the two disc halves 30 occurred

5 Best; no sign of impact-induced delamination of
the two disc halves

Shear Strength

5 The shear strength of the bonded discs were
tested using a universal testing instrument INSTRON™
model 4201, equipped with a personal computer. Discs
bonded with the adhesive compositions of the invention
were subjected to opposing shearing forces. The force
10 causing failure of the bonded discs was measured, and
was denoted the shear strength of the bond. Adhesive
failure caused the adhesive to delaminate, whereas disc
failure occurred when the applied force caused the
discs to break.

CLAIMS

1. A radiation or UV-curable adhesive composition for bonding digital versatile disc components comprising the combination of the following pre-mixture ingredients:
 - (A) about 5 wt.% to about 80 wt.% of at least one UV or radiation-curable acrylate oligomer;
 - (B) about 1 wt.% to about 20 wt.% of at least one non-acrylate functional reactive diluent;
 - (C) about 10 wt.% to about 80 wt.% of at least one acrylate functional reactive diluent;
 - (D) about 0.5 wt.% to about 10 wt.% of at least one radical forming sulphur compound; and
 - (E) optionally about 0.1 wt.% to about 15 wt.% of one or more photoinitiators.
2. An adhesive composition according to claim 1, wherein the non-acrylate functional reactive diluent (B) is a compound comprising a (meth)acrylamide group.
3. An adhesive composition according to claim 1, wherein the non-acrylate reactive diluent (B) is a compound comprising a vinyl-ether or N-vinyl group.
- 25 4. An adhesive composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound comprising a (meth)acrylamide group is an alkyl acrylamide or an aryl acrylamide.
5. An adhesive composition according to claim 3 wherein the compound comprising a vinyl-ether or

N-vinyl group is a compound comprising an N-vinyl group.

6. An adhesive composition according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the one or more photoinitiators are selected from the group consisting of mercaptobenzothiazoles, mercaptobenzoxazoles, benzophenones, acetophenone derivatives, benzoin alkyl ethers, benzil ketals, monoacylphosphine oxides and bisacylphosphine oxides.
7. An adhesive composition according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the radical forming sulphur compound comprises a mercapto group and a trimethoxysilane group.
- 15 8. An adhesive composition according to any one of claims 1-7 wherein the radiation curable acrylate oligomer comprises a urethane acrylate or an acrylated acrylic.
9. An adhesive composition according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein said composition has a viscosity of about 100 to about 1,000 mPas at 25°C.
- 20 10. A digital versatile disc comprising two disc substrates being bound together with a radiation-cured adhesive composition, said adhesive composition before cure is an adhesive composition according to any one of claims 1-9.
- 25 11. A bonded digital versatile disc according to claim 10, wherein said composition is cured to attain at least 80% of its maximum attainable modulus.
- 30 12. A bonded digital versatile disc according to any

one of claims 10-11, wherein the cured adhesive has less than or equal to 10% shrinkage upon cure.

13. A bonded digital versatile disc according to any one of claims 10-12, wherein said composition has a cured film elongation at break of >20%.

14. A bonded digital versatile disc according to any one of claims 10-13, wherein shear strength of a cured disc is from about 10 lbs to about 100 lbs.

15. A digital versatile disc according to any one of claims 10-14, wherein the layers bonded together comprise members selected from the group consisting of plastics, metallics and ceramics.

16. A digital versatile disc structure comprising two digital versatile discs according to any one of claims 10-15, wherein two single sided digital versatile discs are symmetrically bonded on each side of a core member, which is equidistant and parallel to each single sided disc.

17. A digital versatile disc according to any one of claims 10-16, wherein the adhesive composition bonded between the layers is stable under exposure to about 85°C at about 95% relative humidity for at least 250 hours.

18. A method of bonding digital versatile disc layers, comprising bonding at least two of the layers of the disc with a UV or radiation-curable adhesive composition according to any one of claims 1-9.

19. A method according to claim 18, comprising applying the adhesive composition to the disc layers by spin coating, capillary gap dispensing,

or screen printing.

20. A radiation or UV-curable adhesive composition comprising the combination of the following pre-mixture ingredients:

5 (A) about 15 wt.% to about 80 wt.% of at least one UV or radiation-curable acrylate oligomer;

(B) about 1 wt.% to about 20 wt.% of at least one non-acrylate functional reactive diluent;

10 (C) about 10 wt.% to about 80 wt.% of at least one acrylate monomer diluent;

(D) about 0.5 wt.% to about 10 wt.% at least one thiol compound; and

(E) about 0.1 wt.% to about 15 wt.% of one or more photoinitiators.

15

Fig. 1: Adhesive Thickness vs. Spin Speed

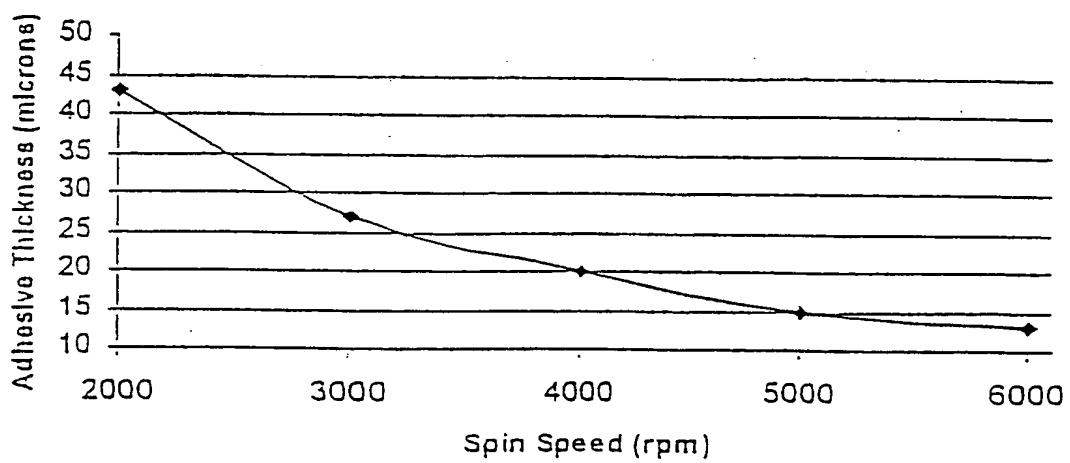
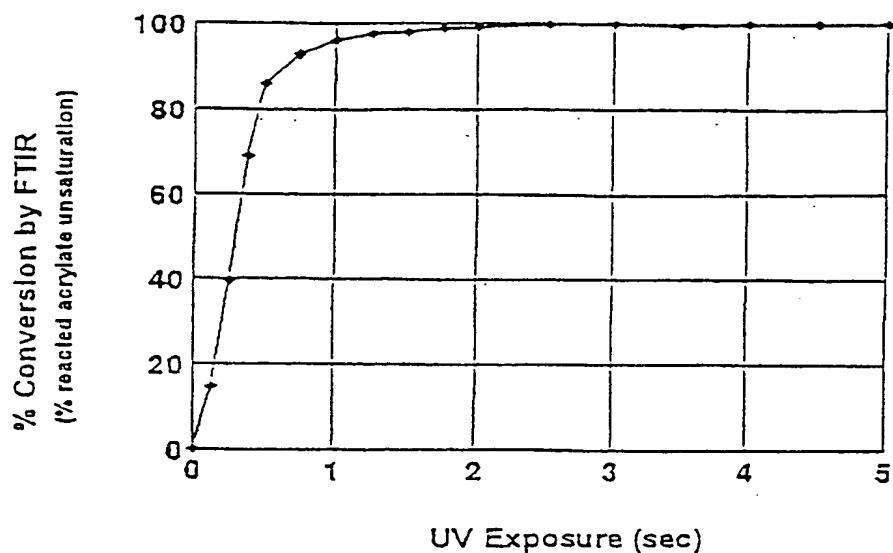
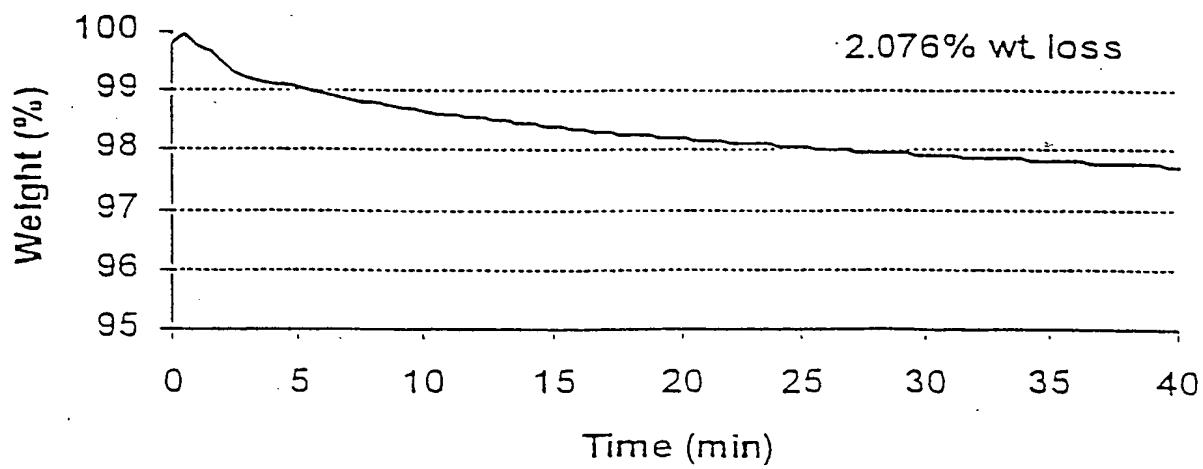


Fig. 2: % Conversion by FTIR

Fig. 3: TGA Thermal Stability
TGA: Isothermal 40 min @ 100°C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/NL 99/00168

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 C09J4/00 G11B7/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 C09J G11B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	WO 98 36325 A (TAKAHASHI TOSHIHIKO ;FURUTA RYOJI (JP); JSR CORP (JP); TAKASI HIDE) 20 August 1998 (1998-08-20) examples table 1 --- WO 98 45344 A (DSM NV ;SULLIVAN MICHAEL GORDON (US); LAPIN STEPHEN (US); KRONGAUZ) 15 October 1998 (1998-10-15) page 18, line 16 - line 30 page 20, line 24 - page 22, line 11 examples claims 1-18,22 --- US 5 426 166 A (USIFER DOUGLAS A ET AL) 20 June 1995 (1995-06-20) column 5, line 32 - line 54 example 5 ---	1-20
P, X		1-9
X		1-8

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"S" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

12 July 1999

20/07/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040. Tx. 31 651 epo nl.
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Pollio, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/NL 99/00168

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9836325	A 20-08-1998	JP	10287718 A	27-10-1998
WO 9845344	A 15-10-1998	NONE		
US 5426166	A 20-06-1995	AU	1601095 A	15-08-1995
		WO	9520611 A	03-08-1995
		US	5484864 A	16-01-1996
		US	5624759 A	29-04-1997